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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Claims 10-14, 16-24 and 26-28 have been amended.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) In a page server coupled to a network, a method of providing a customized page to a user, wherein the customized page is customized according to the user's preferences, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining real-time information from information sources;

storing the real-time information in a shared local storage device;

storing a user-specific template program for the user in a data structure ~~indexed by~~ associated with a user identifier unique to the user;

~~receiving, from the user and at the page server, a user request for a customized page;~~  
~~and thereafter~~

determining a user identifier associated with the request;

retrieving a stored template program specific to the user in the data structure using the determined user identifier associated with the user request;

executing the template program specific to the user using the real-time information stored in the shared local storage device ~~as input to the template program~~ to generate the customized page, wherein the template program indicates items of interest to the user; and

providing the user with the customized page, ~~wherein the customized page includes at least one item of real-time information selected from the storage device.~~

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11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further ~~including~~ comprising, prior to ~~the step of~~ receiving the user request, ~~the steps of~~ caching the template program in a storage location local to the page server.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising ~~the step of~~ receiving user preferences for the user, wherein the user preferences indicate the items of interest to the user, and combining the user preferences with a generic template to form the template program specific to the user.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising ~~including the step of~~ providing the template program specific to the user to the page server.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the page server performs the ~~step of~~ combining of the user preferences with the generic template.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the real-time information comprises stock quotes, sports scores and news headlines.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising ~~a step of~~ generating a default user configuration for the user based on demographic information of the user.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein ~~the step of~~ generating a default user configuration comprises ~~the steps of~~:

determining a default list of cities for a weather report based on user demographic information; and

determining one or more sports teams for sports reporting based on user demographic information.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein ~~the steps of~~ determining a user identifier comprises ~~comprise the steps of~~:

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obtaining user postal code information;

translating the postal code information to user geographic position;

comparing the user geographic position to geographic positions assigned to each city and sports team; and

determining a threshold distance from the user geographic position which is greater than or equal to a distance to a predetermined nonzero number of cities and a predetermined nonzero number of sports team geographic positions.

19. (Currently Amended) Using a page server, a method of providing real-time responses to user requests from a plurality of users for customized pages, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining user preferences for the plurality of users, wherein a user's user preferences indicate items of interest to that user;

obtaining real-time information from information sources;

storing the real-time information in a shared local storage device;

for each of the plurality of users, combining the user preferences for a specific user and a template to form a template program specific to the user at the page server;

storing user-specific template programs for each of the plurality of users in a data structure ~~indexed by~~ associated with user identifiers;

receiving, from a user at the page server, a user request for a customized page;

determining a user identifier associated with the user request;

retrieving a stored template program specific to the user in the data structure using the determined user identifier for the user;

executing the template program specific to the user using the real-time information stored in the shared local storage device ~~as input to the template program~~ to generate the customized page at the page server according to the user preferences; and

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providing the user with the customized page, wherein the steps of executing and providing are performed in real-time response to receipt of the user request in the step of receiving and wherein the customized page includes at least one item of real-time information selected from the shared local storage device.

20. (Currently Amended) In a page server coupled to a network, a method of providing customized pages to a plurality of users, wherein a customized page for a user is customized according to the user's preferences, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

obtaining real-time information from information sources;

storing the real-time information in a shared local storage device;

storing user-specific template programs for each of the plurality of users in a data structure ~~indexed by~~ associated with user identifiers;

receiving, at the page server, requests for a customized page from the plurality of users, wherein a first request is received from a first user in the plurality of users and a second request is received from a second user; ~~and thereafter~~

determining a first user identifier associated with the first request;

determining a second user identifier associated with the second request;

retrieving a first stored template program specific to the first user in the data structure using the determined first user identifier for the first user;

retrieving a second stored template program specific to the second user in the data structure using the determined second user identifier for the second user;

executing the first template program specific to the first user and the second template program specific to the second user using the real-time information stored in the shared local storage device as input to the first and second template programs to generate a first customized page for the first user and a second customized page for the second user, wherein the first template program uses data associated with the first user and the second user template uses data associated with the second user; and

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providing the first user with the first customized page and the second user with the second customized page, wherein the first and second customized page include at least one item of real-time information selected from the shared local storage device.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20, further ~~including~~ comprising, prior to ~~the step of receiving the user requests, the steps of caching~~ the first and second template programs in a storage location local to the page server.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising ~~the step of~~ receiving user preferences for the first and second users, wherein the user preferences indicate the items of interest to the first and second users, and combining the user preferences for the first user with a generic template to form the first template program specific to the first user and combining the user preferences for the second user with the generic template to form the second template program specific to the second user.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising ~~including the step of~~ providing the first and second template programs to the page server.

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the page server performs the ~~step of combining of~~ the user preferences with the generic template for the first and second users.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the real-time information comprises stock quotes, sports scores and news headlines.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising ~~a step of~~ generating a default user configuration for the first and second users based on demographic information of the first and second users.

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein ~~the step of generating a~~ default user configuration ~~comprises the steps of~~:

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determining a default list of cities for a weather report based on user demographic information; and

determining one or more sports teams for sports reporting based on user demographic information.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein ~~the steps of determining a first user identifier and determining a second user identifier comprise, for the first and second users, the steps of:~~

obtaining user postal code information;

translating the postal code information to user geographic position;

comparing the user geographic position to geographic positions assigned to each city and sports team; and

determining a threshold distance from the user geographic position which is greater than or equal to a distance to a predetermined nonzero number of cities and a predetermined nonzero number of sports team geographic positions.

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